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March 2018

# THE VINE

**What's Our Mission?**  
by Rev. Scott Andrews

One of the most common questions I get as a pastor when I'm speaking with people who are not part of our church is: what does your church believe? At first, this question would take me aback. Then I began to realize that what people were really asking was whether we were Roman Catholic (or something like it) or were we Protestant? And, if we were Protestant, what were our views on this or that issue? Ultimately, they wanted to know if we agreed with their worldview.

The United Methodist Church began as we know it today in 1968 with the merger of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren. We came together out of a shared sense of hope and a determination to share the good news of Jesus. We have over the past 50 years worked hard to share a message of inspiration and hope that we might share our understanding of God, our relationship with Christ, and our communion with one another. It hasn't always been easy, but we have always been willing to work to find ways to be a part of the global, universal church.

Lately, when I'm asked about "what does your church believe?", I simply tell those asking me that we believe in "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". And, ultimately, that is our mission. This is what we are called to do as United Methodists. Our goal is to make disciples, but also, through our discipleship together, transform the world. We are called to be people who live by the example of Christ so that the world might see us and that the world might be forever changed by this example.

The follow up question then is "how do you do that"? I believe (and I know I'm repeating myself here) that there are five practices or habits that are the mark of discipleship. These practices are: **Worship, Prayer, Outreach, Spiritual Formation, and Fellowship**. Each has played and continues to play a vital role in how we as believers in Christ become and continue to grow in our discipleship. In turn, we as disciples then can use one or more of the practices to share with and show others what it means to be a disciple. Every part of any church who believes it's called to make Disciples of Christ does these things. From the time of John Wesley to the present, we as United Methodists have in some form or another utilized these practices. They are central to who we are.

We are moving once again through our time of Lent. I've asked everyone in the congregation to give up three things (a food stuff, a spice, and an attitude) for Lent this year. I'd also like for you to consider taking on or building on the five practices I've mentioned today. Can we as a congregation agree to engage in worship with one another; can we pray for one another; can we reach out with love and compassion to our community; can we grow in our faith through Bible study and other spiritual growth opportunities; and can we share together in times of fellowship? If not for just one season?

My hope and prayer are that we can deepen our discipleship. That we can be an example to those around us. That we can be beacons of light to a world so filled with darkness. And so I pray . . .

*Almighty God, bless your church that as we your children seek to live our lives by the example of your Son, we might give glory to you by faithfully answering the call you place in our lives to follow Christ and to make disciples of Him that your transformation of the world will be accomplished. Amen.*

In Christ,  
Pastor Scott



## TRUST ME ON THIS

According to a recent Gallup poll, only 36.5% of the American population believes that clergy are honest and trustworthy.

Trust me, I didn't make that up—it's true! That's down from a high of 67% in 1985. If the trend continues, we'll soon be down with auto mechanics (31%), TV reporters (23%), lawyers (19%), and members of congress (11%). The Gallup comment on this is that "while the clergy are not at the bottom of the list of professions, this year's rating represent a new low for a profession with image problems in recent years."

These statistics don't come with an explanation as to why trust in clergy is low and sinking. A common assumption is that it has much to do with continuing fallout from the sex abuse scandal especially prevalent in the Roman Catholic Church, and I suspect that's at least partially true. I have another theory, though—one that's more broadly applicable. My theory is that this is a problem not just for clergy, but for self-proclaimed Christians in general.

Trust has to do with integrity, with consistency, with deeds that line up with words. Rightly or wrongly (and I sadly suspect it's too often rightly), the general public believes it isn't reliably seeing that in much of the Christian Church. Clergy are just easy targets because they are professional Christians and supposedly represent the Church. So it's the reputation and influence of not just clergy, but the Church as a whole, which has declined significantly in recent years. Church membership and worship attendance reflect that, as do pretty much all other church-related metrics.

Since that's true in virtually all so-called first and second world countries, you and I here at MUMC are not going to, on our own, do a great deal to reverse the trend. We can, however, at least not contribute to it. So let's honestly ask ourselves, are we "walking the talk"? Are we living out the gospel in obvious and appealing ways? Is what we proclaim when we gather for worship on Sunday mornings consistent with the message we demonstrate during the week?

One of the sayings I inherited from my dad is, "I may not be able to change the whole world, but I can keep the world from changing me—and I can influence my small part of the world." So if the reputation of clergy and the Church we represent is in decline, I want to be able, at the very least, to honestly say, "it's not because of me."

Pastor Tom

You are cordially invited to the **Fifteenth Annual Gala, Golf, and Giving** benefitting the food pantry!



### **Gala - Dinner and auction - Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Want to enjoy an evening of great food and festivities? The dinner gala and auction will be held on Sunday April 22, 2018 at the Bear Creek Golf Club. The evening starts at 5:00 PM with a silent auction and opportunity drawings, followed at 6:00 PM with a delicious Texas Barbeque dinner - all for \$50!! The gala dinner and auction is for everyone, not just golfers!

### **Golf - Tournament at Bear Creek Golf Club - Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Want a chance to play one of the premier golf courses in the valley? Your entry fee covers prizes, golf, cart, range balls, morning coffee and rolls and a box lunch for the tournament day *and* your dinner and auction at the Saturday Gala. The registration and auction starts at 9:00 AM with a 10:00 AM shotgun start. Awards presentation and auction follows at 2:30 PM. \$150 per individual. Special packages are available.

### **Giving - All proceeds benefit the Food Pantry -**

Now in its eighteenth year of operation, the Food Pantry provides basic food supplies each week for 100-150 families. Around the holidays, (Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas), those numbers increase to 200 per week!

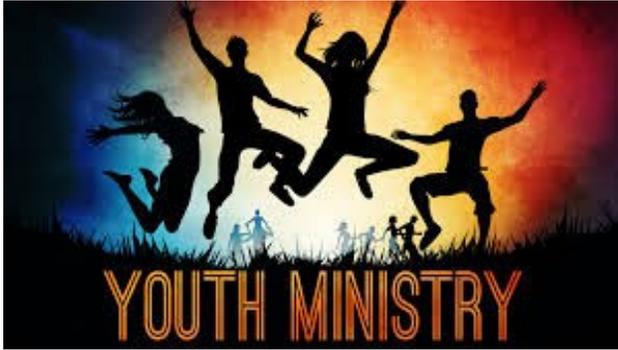
Please consider donating a gift certificate or item from your business for our auction and/or opportunity drawing. Auction items and certificates are needed by Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see us at the Welcome Center between services for details.

For more information stop by the Welcome Center on Sunday for details and entry forms or contact Bruce Hartwig at [annandbruce347@gmail.com](mailto:annandbruce347@gmail.com).

Last year the event raised \$20,000 for the Food Pantry, and with your participation and support we can top that this year.

Thank you for your generosity for this great cause!  
-Your Gala, Golf, and Giving Committee





In this time of Lent, we turn away from temptations and the things of the world, and center ourselves on God. 1 Peter 5:6 says *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time”*. Pastor Scott encouraged us to give up 3 things this Lenten season: a spice, a food, and an attitude. As you do this, let these small sacrifices be a daily reminder to turn your eyes and your heart towards God.

We have a youth Lenten Bible study called Because of the Cross to support the Youth in their journey. We’re meeting at Jennifer Jones’ house for the study from 6:00 PM -8:00 PM on Fridays leading up to Good Friday. We have several meaningful events during holy week for youth to participate in as well:

**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** - we will help put together 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. This is an awesome event and we’re proud to be a part of it!

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** - Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 PM

**Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** - Good Friday service at 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** - Youth Lock-in Saturday from 6:00 PM - 7:00 AM Easter Sunday in the youth room. We’re rehearsing our Sunrise service at this time so come prepared to work hard to get our amazing Easter Sunrise Worship service ready to share with the congregation!

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**—Encourage everyone you know to join us at 6:00 AM for our youth-led Easter Sunrise service!

We, as co-directors, ask for continued prayers and encouragement for our 14 youth confirmands who are learning so much about their faith, their spiritual gifts, the Christian faith, and about the United Methodist Church. In particular, please pray for them as they journey to the Bishop’s Confirmation Retreat March 2-4 and that they have a very deep and meaningful experience. Thank you to our teachers, angels, mentors, and families for all your support! We are so excited for this group of amazing youth!!

In the love and peace of Christ,

Co-Youth Directors,  
Jennifer Jones  
(951)239-9220  
[Kravmamabb@gmail.com](mailto:Kravmamabb@gmail.com)

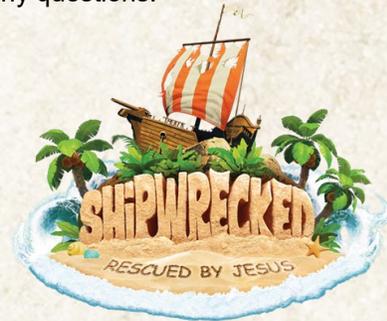
Mandy Allen  
(951)536-5817  
[Mandyallen1216@aol.com](mailto:Mandyallen1216@aol.com)



Please join us for the MUMC Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. There are egg hunts for different age groups and crafts. Bring your Easter

baskets and join us on the lawn as we celebrate immediately after first service. Don’t forget to invite your family, friends, and neighbors! For more information about the Easter Egg Hunt please contact Ayesha Sabree-Sorensen at [ayesha@murrietaumc.org](mailto:ayesha@murrietaumc.org) or (951)370-9285.

**DONATIONS** - The Family Ministry Team is looking for donations for this year’s Easter Egg Hunt. Some of the things we’re looking for are empty Easter eggs and items to fill these eggs but please no chocolate. We would also like all items by Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see Ayesha Sabree-Sorensen at [ayesha@murrietaumc.org](mailto:ayesha@murrietaumc.org) or (951)370-9285 with any questions.



A summer kids’ event called Shipwrecked VBS will be hosted from June 18 to June 22. At Shipwrecked, kids discover that Jesus rescues them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God’s love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they’ll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Sail Away Sendoff that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned.

We are also in need of volunteers for this exciting event! We are looking for youth to adults to help guide kids on their adventure as they discover God’s love. Please email Ayesha Sabree-Sorensen at [Ayesha@murrietaumc.org](mailto:Ayesha@murrietaumc.org) with any questions or comments.

Ayesha Sabree-Sorensen





# BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

For You are my rock and my fortress;  
Therefore, for Your name's sake,  
Lead me and guide me.

- 3/1 Paz Alcazar
- 3/1 Tresha Shaw
- 3/3 Nancy McNally
- 3/4 Tai Noa
- 3/5 Bob Stoops
- 3/6 Zenon Andrzejczak
- 3/6 Nanette Chevalier
- 3/7 Arabella De Los Reyes
- 3/7 Jaden De Los Reyes
- 3/7 Nicholas Pettis
- 3/9 Sandee Beam
- 3/10 Eve Alcazar
- 3/10 Steve Robertson
- 3/11 Donna Brantly
- 3/15 Linda Yankie
- 3/16 Selena Andrews
- 3/16 Marisa Moenho
- 3/18 Jeff Berkey
- 3/18 Michelle Quinn
- 3/19 Alex Alcazar
- 3/20 Aletha McLain
- 3/21 Bryan Glassman
- 3/21 Ann Stricker
- 3/24 Alicia Daus
- 3/27 Timmy Parks
- 3/28 Karen Shumate
- 3/29 Mary Fawcett
- 3/29 Scott Thudium
- 3/31 Kathleen Navarro
- 3/31 Jacob Rivera



- |      |          |                     |
|------|----------|---------------------|
| 3/1  | 55 years | Bob & Carole Stoops |
| 3/3  | 45 years | Tai & Tagi Faaiu    |
| 3/9  | 66 years | Stan & Betty Dilkey |
| 3/13 | 25 years | David & Alicia Daus |
| 3/16 | 55 years | Ron & Roberta Smith |
| 3/28 | 51 years | Myeong & Jong Lee   |



## Holy Week Events

*Rise against Hunger*  
Wednesday, March 28th  
6:00 PM–8:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall



*Maundy Thursday meal and communion*  
March 29th  
6:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall



*Good Friday*  
March 30th  
7:00 PM Worship



Easter Celebration  
April 1st  
6:00 AM Sunrise service  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Service  
Easter Egg Hunt  
10:00 AM–11:00 AM  
MUMC



Thank you to  
our

*Volunteers*



### The Mission's Team Year in Review 2017

It's with a great deal of gratitude for all they've given as volunteers for the food pantry that we wish Don and Mary Ann Jones good-bye and Godspeed as they relocate to Georgia to be closer to their kids and grandkids.

Over the past years they've picked up muffins from Fresh Fusion bread from Albertson's and worked tirelessly to lead a team of volunteers to make the Annual Golf Tournament, which benefits the food pantry, a success. They were always willing to help wherever there was a need. We'll miss them and send our love with them. We know that their next church and its ministries will soon receive a huge energy boost as they get involved in new ways to help.

We also have big shoes to fill! We need a volunteer to pick up bread and other bakery items from the Albertson's on Cal Oaks between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM and deliver the items back to take to the food pantry on Thursday mornings. The whole operation usually can be completed in an hour to an hour and a half. This can be a fun job as you may be surprised at the variety of items that are donated and at some of the items that you've never even noticed in the store. The store's employees are friendly and helpful and you will get a whole new understanding of the complexities of stocking a supermarket.

Volunteering is a wonderful way of contributing to the mission of our church by **Loving God, Loving Others, and Serving People.** Contact co-leaders Kathy Pyle at 951-813-9701 or Ann Hartwig at 951-970-1986 to volunteer and for more information.

Ann Hartwig  
Food Pantry co-leader



Thank  
You!

Mark your calendar! Our next **Pet Food Donation Day is Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**. We make a difference for those dogs and cats that are waiting for their forever home at the Friends of the Valleys animal shelter.

Your contributions of cat and dog food, plus the treats, toys and blankets fill their needs, nurture them and give them comfort! Please bring your donations to the

Welcome Center or my car parked nearby.

In January your contributions weighted 150 lbs. and in February 110 lbs.! Thank you so very much for your donations!

Linda Yankie

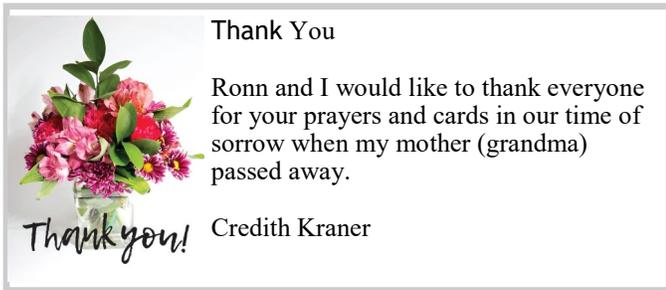
All of us on the Missions Team want to start with a big **Thank You!** Thank you to everyone who have made our 2017 projects possible. Last year our outreach consisted of supporting the monthly Food Pantry Breakfast at MUMC, the Animal Friends of the Valleys through your donations of pet food and other needs, our neighbors in Joshua Tree, the under-served in Mexico and our missionary friends in Cameroon.

- ◇ Through our efforts of the monthly Friday breakfast, members of our congregation have served over 1200 hungry souls with warm food and warm hearts.
- ◇ Our breakfasts also bless our friends in Joshua Tree. Our team served over 500 people during our 5 visits in the past year.
- ◇ The Missions Team has spread God's love with the people of Colonia Santa Nino, Mexico with your support through dentistry care, community outreach, prayer vigils and disciplining, and the end of the year Los Posadas and toy drive in which 200 children got to celebrate Christmas with members of MUMC and went home with a gift and a full belly.
- ◇ Our pet ministry had a wonderful year with collection of hundred's of pounds of food, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, which is delivered monthly to our local shelter for all those four-legged friends in need. Furthermore, we had the *Blessing of the Pets* which was a fun and wonderful event and quite a success!
- ◇ The coat drive, sponsored by the Women's Ministry and organized by Kristin Barr, was another success in 2017 with hundreds of coats and blankets distributed during the holidays. Food Pantry (Thanksgiving bags supported by MUMC and Christmas bags supported by the LDS church) and Breakfast events in December were also a great success.
- ◇ Missions support of the Scott Missionary family has helped them in their efforts in the translation of the Bible for the people in Cameroon.

We look forward to sharing Gods love at home and aboard with our many Missions projects in 2018. Thank you for making 2017 a wonderful year.

If you are interested in joining us, we meet monthly on the second Sunday of the month at 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall, room 4 or you can contact Meg Matthews at [mail@megmatthews.com](mailto:mail@megmatthews.com) for more information.

Meg Matthews  
Missions Chair



Thank You

Ronn and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and cards in our time of sorrow when my mother (grandma) passed away.

Thank you!

Credith Kraner



**OUR LEGACY—United Methodist Women**

The next United Methodist Women’s meeting will be on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 in Rooms 7 and 8 in the House Fellowship Hall. The program, offered by Ann Reese, is about our personal Methodist inheritance and the legacy of United Methodist Women with women, children and youth, including how we may support people in the community and around the world with whom we have a distant connection. We will individually make pledge commitments for 2018.

Bring a sack lunch and share a special time with other Christian women of all ages. Bring a guest! Bring a framed photograph of a family member or friend who was or is a United Methodist Woman if you have one.

If you have questions about UMW or about this meeting, contact Donna Chamberlain at 951-696-1190.



**RISE AGAINST HUNGER**

During Lent this year as we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we at Murrieta United Methodist Church, members and friends ages 2-102, have an opportunity to share in a service project to feed hungry children around the world.

On Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00 PM we will gather together in Fellowship Hall to scoop, measure and package over 10,000 meals. Please help us to raise the money needed to purchase the meals and sign up to attend this event.

Please sign up to attend on the insert in the Sunday morning bulletin or call Lynne in the church office at 951-677-6174. Checks can be made payable to MUMC with the notation “Rise Against Hunger”.

Lynne Mathews  
951-677-6174

**Monthly Giving for January 2018**

	<u>Giving</u>
1/7/2018	\$14,790
1/14/2018	\$8,026
1/21/2018	\$16,745
1/28/2018	\$7,027
<b>TOTAL</b>	
	<b>\$46,588</b>
Needed Monthly	\$50,190
Difference	(\$3,602)

Thank you for your generosity to Murrieta UMC. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Hartwig, Finance Chair [annandbruce347@gmail.com](mailto:annandbruce347@gmail.com).



Calling all singers and actors! We are previewing our next musical, *Once Upon A Parable*, on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall, room 8. This program is a fun look at several of the parables that Jesus told. There are roles for all ages from elementary to high school so extend this opportunity to your friends who might not be a part of our church family. They would need to come to all of our rehearsals. We hope to present this on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall like we did at Christmas time. Please contact me by phone or text if you have any questions!

Karen Sabicer,  
Director of Children’s and Youth Choirs  
951-775-9397



*Loving God, Loving Others, Serving People*

MURRIETA UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
24652 ADAMS AVE.  
P.O. Box 602 , 92564  
MURRIETA, CA 92562

Return Service Requested



## **Murrieta United Methodist Church**

### **Sunday Education Schedule**

9:00 AM: Pre-K - 5th grade Sunday school, Fellowship Hall,  
following the Children's Message

9:00 AM: Jr. High Sunday school, Youth room, following the  
Children's Message

1st Sunday of the month: Pre K-5th and Jr. High worship with their  
families in the Sanctuary

9:00 AM: Sr. High Worship, Sanctuary

10:15 AM : Children's Choir 11:00 AM: Youth Choir Fellowship  
Hall room 11

Regular Youth Group: 12:00 PM—2:30 PM, Youth Room

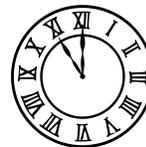
**\*\*Nursery and Child Care are available 8:45 AM to 12:15 PM**

A Monthly Publication  
Editor: Judy Gilmore  
**Deadline:** Thur., March 15,  
**(Due by Noon)**

**E-Mail articles to**  
judyg@murrietaumc.org

### **REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**



**OFFICE HOURS**  
M-TH 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Office Phone: 951-677-6174  
Office Fax: 951-698-1794